population and housing census

NEWS RELEASE

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1,294,236 permanent residents of Estonia were enumerated in the census

According to the preliminary data of the 2011 Population and Housing Census, there are 1,294,236 permanent residents in Estonia. Compared to the previous census, the number of permanent residents in Estonia has decreased by 75,816 or 5.5%.

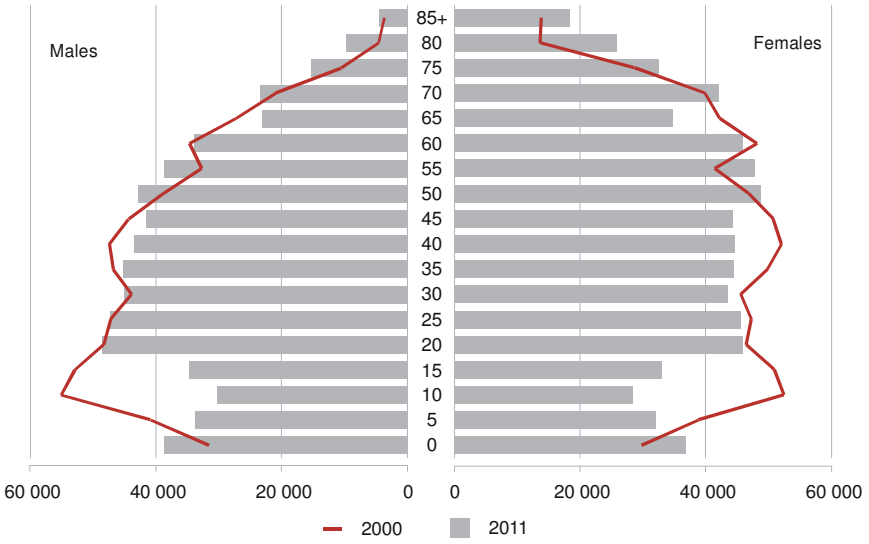
During the 2011 Population and Housing Census, conducted from 31 December 2011 until 31 March 2012, 1,294,236 permanent residents of Estonia were enumerated, including 693,884 women and 600,352 men. 68.7% of the enumerated permanent residents defined themselves as Estonians and 24.8% as Russians. 4.9% of the enumerated permanent residents specified another ethnic nationality and 1.5% did not specify any ethnic nationality.

Compared to the previous Population and Housing Census in 2000, the number of permanent residents has declined by 75,816 (in 2000, 1,370,052 permanent residents were enumerated). According to the international definition, a permanent resident is a person who has lived in the country for at least a year before the census moment (31 December 2012) or intends to live in the country for at least a year.

The age structure of the population has changed since the previous census. “The preliminary results of the census confirm that the population trends that emerged after the restoration of independence have continued in Estonia,” said Professor Ene-Margit Tiit, the Head of Methodology of the 2011 Population and Housing Census (PHC 2011).

In 2000, the proportion of children (aged 0–14) in the population was 18%, whereas by 2011 their proportion had decreased to 15%. At the same time, the proportion of people aged 65 and over had increased to 18% (compared to 15% in 2000). The share of the working-age population (aged 15–65) had remained on the same level as in 2000 (67%).

Population age-pyramid



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Enumerated permanent residents by counties

"The regional concentration of the population has continued," said Professor Tiit. Compared to the previous census, the populations of Harju and Tartu counties have increased and the populations of the other counties have decreased. The population numbers of local governments will be published at the end of 2012.

	2000	2011	change	change, %
HARJU COUNTY	525 682	552 643	26 961	5.13
of which Tallinn	400 378	392 331	-8 047	-2.01
HIIU COUNTY	10 440	8 470	-1 970	-18.87
IDA-VIRU COUNTY	179 702	149 244	-30 458	-16.95
JÕGEVA COUNTY	38 297	31 398	-6 899	-18.01
JÄRVA COUNTY	38 781	30 553	-8 228	-21.22
LÄÄNE COUNTY	28 644	24 184	-4 460	-15.57
LÄÄNE-VIRU COUNTY	67 801	59 861	-7 940	-11.71
PÕLVA COUNTY	32 695	27 452	-5 243	-16.04
PÄRNU COUNTY	91 212	82 584	-8 628	-9.46
RAPLA COUNTY	37 593	34 905	-2 688	-7.15
SAARE COUNTY	35 951	31 344	-4 607	-12.81
TARTU COUNTY	149 602	150 287	685	0.46
VALGA COUNTY	35 796	30 158	-5 638	-15.75
VILJANDI COUNTY	57 974	47 594	-10 380	-17.90
VÕRU COUNTY	39 882	33 439	-6 443	-16.16

* The data are based on the county borders at the time of the census.

The preliminary results of the census are published in Statistics Estonia's database.

By December 2012 the latest, the preliminary results of the Population and Housing Census will undergo a further comparison with different state registers. This allows Statistics Estonia to assess the number of persons who were not enumerated (under-coverage). After that it will be possible to decide whether any revisions are needed in the population statistics.

The results of PHC 2011 will be published over 2012 and 2013. The preliminary schedule can be found at www.stat.ee/54615.

The 11th population census in Estonia was conducted from 31 December 2011 until 31 March 2012. Previous censuses were carried out in 1881, 1897, 1922, 1934, 1941, 1959, 1970, 1979, 1989 and 2000. The next population census will be conducted in Estonia in 2020/2021.

For further information:

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